

THE FATALITIES OF WAR

DECREASED MORTALITY IN THE FACE OF DESTRUCTIVE GUNS.

Changes in Methods of Warfare. Relative Strength of the British and Boers—The War From a Financial Standpoint.

[Special Correspondence.]

CAPE TOWN, Jan. 8.—Notwithstanding the superior marksmanship of the Boers and the latest and most destructive types of guns on both sides, the casualties so far during the war have been astonishingly small. I do not mean to convey the idea that this war is not bloody and terrible, as all wars are, but certainly the destructive qualities of new weapons are not so great as their inventors would have us believe. Statistics of war fatalities in the past are not at hand, but I recall the statement that during the Crimean war the Russians fired 45,000,000 shots and killed 48,000 men, or about one to every 910 shots fired. Since that time rapid firing guns have greatly improved the efficiency of both artillery and

in regard to the wily Kruger has thus far proved wrong there is no certainty about this one. There are known to be more soldiers around Pretoria than anybody supposed, and no account has been taken of the women, who can fight nearly as well as the men. While children the Boers teach their girls as well as boys to handle guns, and the women never get too old to shoot well. They are as courageous and combative as the men and, if occasion requires, will take their places in the fighting ranks. When Kruger predicted that if the British conquered it would be at a price that would stagger humanity, he was making no idle boast.

CECIL HOYT.

"I think I would go crazy with pain were it not for Chamberlain's Pain Balm," writes Mr. W. H. Stapleton, Herminie, Pa. "I have been afflicted with rheumatism for several years and have tried remedies without number, but Pain Balm is the best medicine I ever got hold of." One application relieves the pain. For sale by B. R. Wilson & Son.

RUNNING TO TRIMMINGS.

Tendency to Elaborate Ornament in Feminine Attire.

[Special Correspondence.]

NEW YORK, Feb. 6.—A garment without any kind of trimming is like a landscape without trees, hills or water—very flat and uninteresting. A dress particularly requires some sort of adornment, and there is an embarrassment of riches in this respect just now. I remember reading a description of a dress in Harper's Magazine of the date of 1850. The dress itself was plain, with full sleeves and no collar. The waist was snug and sewed to the skirt, which was gathered very full. Down the front breadth in the center was a funny little trimming made of

The luxuriant laces bid fair to grow in favor as they do in beauty. The nets and laces are so closely incorporated making these that it looks like a "continuous performance."

There are some pretty soft nets with lace applied over them, and these are edged with delicate silk fringe. Very narrow black velvet ribbon is sewed to each edge with excellent effect. Some of the manufactured trimmings are marvels of delicate work. I have a sample before me now just long enough to show the design. It is done on fine white net. One part of the design is a scroll made of overlapped spangles in iridescent colors, each side edged with a line of very narrow beads. Looped through this is a circle of pearl beads, with a fringe of narrow white lace around it, and where the two links loop is quite a little bunch of spangles sewed on as closely as they can be. This is intended as a border for the neck of evening dresses or the edge of a tunic or heading for a flounce. It is bright, graceful and delicate.

It seems to me that there are more of the heavy Plauen laces in all overs, set pieces and borderings than ever. Many entire dresses are made of this lined with some contrasting color. There are also many appliques and cut work designs in taffetas and in fine cloth, scroll pattern and elaborately planned arabesques. Some of the taffetas have lines of spangles all along all cut edges. This makes it necessary to have larger spaces. There is another plan, and that is to have thin stuffs decorated with an applique of fine lace flowers. These are also put upon crepe de chine, fine velvelling and thin and sheer lawns.

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THE POWERS.

The government of France is kept busy voting confidence in itself.—New York World.

Russia doesn't care to go to war with little Japan for fear of getting a "Japan finish."—Indianapolis Journal.

The German emperor belongs to such a numerous family that he cannot be expected to promise never to fight any of his relations.—Washington Star.

The Italian government announces that it will make the artillery force of that country equal to any in the world—another echo of the peace conference.—Indianapolis News.

Robbed the Grave.

A startling incident of which Mr. John Oliver, of Philadelphia, was the subject, is narrated by him as follows: "I was in a most dreadful condition. My skin was almost yellow, my eyes sunken, tongue coated, pain continually in back and sides, no appetite gradually growing weaker day by day. Three physicians had given me up. Fortunately a friend advised trying 'Electric Bitters,' and to my great joy and surprise, the first bottle made a decided improvement. I continued their use for three weeks, and am now a well man. I know they saved my life, and robbed the grave of another victim." No one should fail to try them. Only 50 cents, guaranteed, at B. R. Wilson & Son's drug store.

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RED CROSS WORK.

infantry, and the number of shots that can be fired in a given period has increased many times over. The proportion of fatalities, however, has grown less.

In the American civil war the losses were appalling when compared with anything since. In some battles the loss was 50 per cent of the troops engaged, and losses of from 15 to 25 per cent were common. At immortal Balaklava, when most people thought the Light brigade were practically annihilated, the actual loss was only 37 per cent. In the use of modern weapons there is a greater proportion of wounded and a less proportion of killed. It is a notable fact, moreover, that a greater proportion of the wounded recover. The small bullets, shot at terrific force, are partly accountable for this, but much credit must be given to improved methods of surgery and the efficient work of the Red Cross and similar institutions.

In recent wars more soldiers have died from sickness than from injuries in combat. In explanation of the decreased mortality in battle marked changes in methods must be taken into account. The brilliant charges of the past are now seldom attempted. The man behind the breastworks has grown in importance. Human ingenuity has worked wonders in the way of destructive mechanism, but equal if not greater ingenuity has evolved methods of keeping out of the way.

As the war advances the world, including the British, realizes the systematic preparations which the Boers have been making during the past several years. In the first place, both the Transvaal and the Orange Free State have plenty of money. In 1895 the revenue of the Transvaal was over \$1,000,000, and in 1896 its annual income had increased to nearly \$22,000,000.

War preparations have been going on under the direction of President Kruger for 20 years. The dynamite factories at Zurfountain, a creation of Kruger's, are the largest and finest in the world. They were constructed by German experts and can turn out any explosive known to science. The fortifications of Pretoria are something which the world does not yet know, but it is safe to say that they include everything that money and skill can do. Gigantic forts may be seen on every side of the town, and the latest and heaviest artillery is in the possession of the best Boer and European gunners.

The only way in which the Boer army can capture its enemies is to surround them and force them into submission. The Boers are not granted the right to entertain foreign troops. The only way in which the Boer army can capture its enemies is to surround them and force them into submission. The Boers are not granted the right to entertain foreign troops.



SIMPLE HOME DRESS.

lace and ribbon, like linked circles. This dress was spoken of as "very elaborate." I wonder what the wearers of those dresses would think of some of the confections of today?

A plain dress today is more ornate than that, and an elaborate one would make those dead and gone persons' hair rise. Well, the world do move if the sun doesn't. In the picture with this is a simple home dress for a young lady. The material is the delicate, frosty blue zibeline, which has taken so well with womankind this season. The skirt is plain, but there is a slashed tunic over it, and this is trimmed with white silk applique and passementerie. The waist is of taffeta of the same color, with a draped belt. Over this is a figure made entirely of the white lace and passementerie. The collar is a draped stock of the taffeta, with a very full bow with jabot ends reaching to the belt. This is made of white chiffon, with an edging of cream colored Valenciennes. On the sleeves are the epaulettes of the passementerie. Another dainty touch is where a tiny chiffon frill is sewed inside the top of the stock. And this is just a simple home dress!

Speaking of trimming reminds me of the many uses and kinds of trimmings, especially fringes. There is a pretty fancy in having white embroidery with a fringed edge. This is intended mostly for dainty suits, but it is very novel. Some of the trimmings for handsome evening dresses have braid lace and spangles all combined. The part intended to mark the design is of braid. To this is sewed the lace. Black guipure is oftenest seen, and upon this are sewed the spangles, sometimes large and sometimes small and sometimes black and other times mixed. One style of fringe has a heading of three rows of jet beads, and to that hung the guipure is deep. This was common in the 1850s. A green spangle, all the way through, was strung between the rows of the McFectieve trimming. In the 1860s, a fringe of cut steel, in casements of cut steel, was used. In the 1870s, a fringe of cut steel, in casements of cut steel, was used. In the 1880s, a fringe of cut steel, in casements of cut steel, was used. In the 1890s, a fringe of cut steel, in casements of cut steel, was used.

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